

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

April 2016

Mars Science News

MEPAG Meeting 31 summary posted, and community feedback requested about Mars Science communications

MEPAG Meeting 31 was held March 2-3, 2016, in Silver Spring, MD. In addition to the agenda and presentations from that meeting, a meeting summary is now available: <http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m31>. This summary includes the Findings presented by Lisa Pratt (MEPAG Past Chair) at the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS) meeting, held March 9-10, based on discussion at MEPAG Meeting 31. (A link to the MEPAG and other AG presentations at PSS can be found here: <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/pss/>.)

Additionally, as announced at the MEPAG Meeting, the Mars Program Office is soliciting feedback about our communications with the Mars community. Please help us assess and optimize the design and content of this newsletter, the MEPAG webpage, and the annual MEPAG meetings: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15DKE9kzEXfdMZbcn2lJGak8fDxrpYZf7cbfsKbVUBKl/viewform>.

And one more reminder that Dr. Victoria Hamilton, the MEPAG Goals Committee Chair, is requesting nominations for the MEPAG Goals Committee. Candidates should volunteer under a particular Goal (I. Life, II. Climate, III. Geology, IV. Prep. Human Exploration) and be willing to commit to 2-3 years (1-2 Goal revisions). Committee members are expected to be familiar with the MEPAG Goals Document and the state of Mars science within their Mars disciplinary community, and to serve as a representative of their Mars disciplinary community. Current openings are for Goals I, II, IV. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominations can be submitted via <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DooOOABf9pDsYnAZBsoxr0p8MswuLZVYiv3PEOfjrOU/viewform>.

(Both the Goals Committee nomination form and the Communications Survey are also linked from the main MEPAG page, under "MEPAG Updates": <http://mepag.nasa.gov/index.cfm>.)

Registration is open for the Mars Biosignatures Workshop

Conference: May 16-19, 2016 in Lake Tahoe, NV, USA

The Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments conference will be held May 16–19, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe (<http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/biosignature2016/>). The objective of this conference is to focus strategies for detection of a range of possible biosignatures on Mars in different categories of geologic settings by assessing the attributes and preservation potential of various biosignatures in different Mars-analog habitable environments on Earth. The program will be posted by Friday, April 8. Registration is now open, and early registration is available through April 15, 2016.

NASA RFI: Assessing the Community's Use of the PSD Facilities

Deadline: April 30, 2016

The Planetary Science Division (PSD) is interested in maximizing the scientific productivity of its Facilities Program. To assess its Facilities Program, PSD initiated a review of its existing funded facilities. Inputs received in response to this RFI will be considered by NASA, which will establish a PSD internal team to create a strategic plan for the Facilities Program. PSD will assess the needs of the community for existing facilities through past use, define an implementation approach to answer future needs of the Facilities Program, and provide programmatic direction. Input should be in a PDF file format, not to exceed two pages, attached to an e-mail and sent to Doris Daou at Doris.Daou@nasa.gov with subject line: *REPOSE to Facilities RFI*.

2016 NASA Planetary Volcanology Workshop: Analogs to Volcanic Features and Processes in Satellite and Rover Images

July 12-19, Kīlauea Volcano, Hawai'i

This field workshop is sponsored by NASA, and will focus on volcanic features analogous to those on Mars that have been imaged recently by MOC, THEMIS, HRSC, HiRISE, and the MER and MSL rovers, comparing their field appearance to their appearance in remotely-sensed images. The workshop will be almost exclusively field-based, with excursions (by vehicle and by foot) to locations on Kīlauea and Mauna Loa that are particularly instructive with regard to their value as Mars analogs. This opportunity is intended for NASA-funded senior graduate students who already have a background in volcanology and are currently working on Mars volcanology problems, but are in need of field experience on real volcanoes.

All expenses, including travel, will be covered, although it will be done on a reimbursement basis. US citizenship is not required, but all applicants must be students/employees at a US University/Institution, and their current study or work must be funded by a NASA planetary research program. Full application instructions and eligibility information is listed at http://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2016/04/04/announcing-the-2016-nasa-planetary-volcanology-workshop/, and application materials and questions should be sent to Sarah Fagents: fagents@higp.hawaii.edu.

New AGU program: Visiting Congressional Representatives

In conjunction with AGU's Public Affairs Office, the Planetary Sciences Section is starting a new program where graduate students and post-docs (and early career faculty, if interested) will visit their congressional representative's local office to talk about their research and advocate for continued planetary science funding. Similar to AGU's Congressional Visits Day, this will be an opportunity to meet lawmakers and take an active role in the legislative process. AGU will provide training webinars and materials, and can also help to pair up students with their university's government relations office (as well as other resources). They aim to have a live webinar for training in April/May, and visits would occur during the congressional recesses in August and October.

For more information, see <http://planets.agu.org/congress>.

New online Viking Mission Museum

Over 300 artifacts from The Viking Mars Missions Education & Preservation Project (VMMEPP) are now available online, via a partnership between VMMEPP and the Google Cultural Institute. Within this new virtual exhibition, users can see the Viking Mission Bulletins that guided the public/press through mission preparation, launch, and discoveries and many other unique documents.

The Viking Mission Museum: <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/exhibit/the-viking-mars-mission/ROKijSjJbOktlw>.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months, cont'd on next page)

Due	Project
April 8	Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans , Registration deadline
April 11	68th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain GSA , Early registration deadline
April 15	Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments , Early registration deadline
April 19	Third International Conference on the Exploration of Phobos and Deimos , Abstract deadline
April 26	26th Goldschmidt Conference , Early registration deadline
May 2	Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments , Registration deadline

Due	Project
May 10	Japan Geoscience Union Meeting , Early registration deadline.
May 15	Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments , Abstract deadline
May 24	Annual Meetings of the Meteorological Society , Abstract deadline
June 23	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting , Abstract deadline 6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration , Abstract deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

A note about “conferences” and this calendar of events

- Missing NCTS#s (and forecasting deadline, if anomalous) can be sent to Meredith Cosby (Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90days in advance — sometimes further in advance if the conference is “Heavily Attended.”
- Please do not assume our noting of NCTS# is complete. If you are unsure if an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

Second Quarter, 2016

	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	International Venus Conference http://venus2016.uk/
	April 11-15, 2016 Orlando, FL, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2016 Conference: 15th Biennial ASCE International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction, and Operations in Challenging Environments http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/ , NCTS# 23397-16 <i>Symp. 1: Granular Materials in Space Explorat., Symp. 2: Explorat. & Utilizat. of ET Bodies</i>
	April 12-15, 2016 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans http://www.congrexprojects.com/2016-events/16a06
	April 17-22, 2016 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2016 http://egu2016.eu/home.html , NCTS# 23760-16 <i>Session PS2.3: Mars Science and Exploration</i>
	May 16-19, 2016 Lake Tahoe, NV, USA	Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/biosignature2016/ , NCTS# 24667-16 (forecast by Feb 12)
	May 17-19, 2016 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/ , NCTS# 24381-16
	May 18-19, 2016 Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS	4th European Lunar Symposium http://sservi.nasa.gov/els2016/
	May 18-19, 2016 Moscow, ID, USA	68th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain GSA http://www.geosociety.org/sections/rm/2016mtg/index.htm <i>Sessions: (1) Planetary Science - Insights from Remote Sensing, Field, and the Laboratory; (2) Megafloods, Paleohydrology, and Fluvial Processes on Earth and Beyond - In Recognition of the Scientific Contributions of Victor R. Baker; (3) Volcanic Hazards - Products, Processes, and Perspectives</i>
	May 22-26, 2016 Chiba, JAPAN	Japan Geoscience Union Meeting http://www.jpgu.org/meeting_e2016/index.htm <i>Session P-PS02: Mars</i>
	May 24-25, 2016 Oxford, UK	iCubeSat 2016, the 5th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://icubesat.org/

Second Quarter, 2016 — cont.

	May 24-26, 2016 Houston, TX, USA	New Views of the Moon 2 Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/newviews2016/
	June 5-8, 2016 Atlanta, GA, USA	53rd Annual Meeting of the Clay Minerals Society http://conferences.illinois.edu/CMS2016/index.html <i>Session: Clay Minerals on Mars and Other Planetary Bodies</i>
	June 7-9, 2016 Golden, CO, USA	7th Joint Meeting of Space Resources Roundtable and Planetary & Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium http://www.isruinfo.com/
	June 13-17, 2016 Laurel, MD, USA	International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-13) http://ippw2016.jhuapl.edu/index.php , NCTS #24380-16 <i>additional short course offered June 11-12, 2016</i>
	June 20-21, 2016 London, UK	Martian Gullies and their Earth Analogues https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/martiangullies , NCTS #24907-16
	June 20-24, 2016 Potsdam, GERMANY	11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP) 2016 http://icop2016.org/index.php/program <i>Session #16 "Planetary Permafrost and Earth Analogues"</i>
	June 28-30, 2016 Laurel, MD, USA	14th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/
	June 26-July 1, 2016 Yokohama, JAPAN	26th Goldschmidt Conference http://goldschmidt.info/2016/index <i>Session 02h: Geochemical Evolution of the Martian Surface and Interior</i>

Third Quarter, 2016

NEW!	July 18-19, 2016 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Third International Conference on the Exploration of Phobos and Deimos http://phobos-deimos.arc.nasa.gov/ , NCTS #24799-16
	July 25-29, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	NASA's 28th Annual Planetary Science Summer School https://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm
NEW!	July 27-29, 2016 Seattle, WA, USA	Exoplanet Biosignatures Workshop Without Walls and ExoPAG SAG 16 Activity http://nai.nasa.gov/calendar/workshop-without-walls-exoplanet-biosignatures/ , NCTS#25456-16
	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society http://www.metsoc-berlin.de/
	September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND	6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/ , NCTS# 23841-16
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)

Third Quarter, 2016—cont'd

	September 25-28, 2016 Denver, CO, USA	GSA Meeting http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home , NCTS # 24946-16
	September 26-30, 2016 Guadalajara, MEXICO	67th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/iac2016/

Fourth Quarter, 2016

UPDATED!	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting http://aas.org/meetings/dps48 , NCTS #25341-17
	October 19, 2016	2016 ExoMars (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars
NEW!	December 12-16, 2016 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/ , NCTS #25415-17

2017

	March 28-30, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 13-14, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)

Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	11/28/2016	10/16/2018	9/02/2020

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	3/25/2016	4/14/2017	3/30/2018	4/19/2019
Rosh Hashanah	10/03/2016	9/21/2017	9/10/2018	9/30/2019
Yom Kippur	10/12/2016	9/30/2017	9/19/2018	10/09/2019

(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)

Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/10/2016	10/09/2017	10/08/2018	10/14/2019
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/24/2016	11/23/2017	11/22/2018	11/28/2019
Christmas Day	12/25/2016	12/25/2017	12/25/2018	12/25/2019

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:

Meredith Cosby at Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov.

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

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